

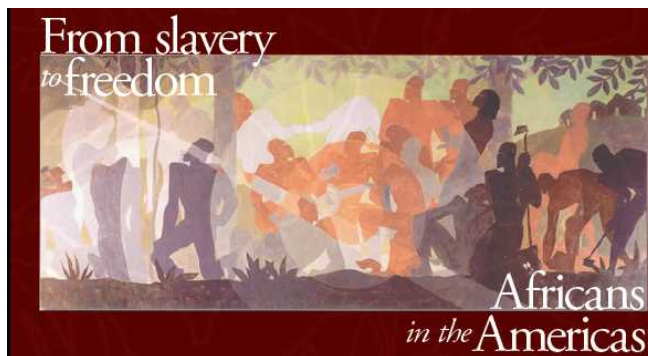
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February 2007

African Americans have been an integral part of America for generations, and our Nation is stronger because of their contributions. During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements of African Americans and recognize our continued responsibility to strive for equality for all our citizens.

With grace and determination, African American men and women have shaped our Nation and influenced American life. Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans and helped change the course of American history. Educators Booker T. Washington and Carter G. Woodson helped break down racial barriers in education to provide opportunity for all people. Americans have benefited from the achievements of scientists like George Washington Carver. Artists such as Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong inspired Americans and created some of the most celebrated music this Nation has ever produced.

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America



Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) dedicates its 2007 national theme to the struggles of peoples of African descent to achieve freedom and equality in the Americas during the age of emancipation. Over a half-century ago, the celebrated historian John Hope Franklin, a leading light of ASALH, identified the struggle for slavery and

freedom as the central theme of African American history. We take up this theme to honor him and to place before the nation and the world the historical importance of slavery and freedom in the making of modern societies in the Americas.

Did you know?

In 2005, there were 2,4 million black military veterans in the United States. More military veterans are black than any other minority group.

As of July 1, 2005, the estimated population of black residents in the United States, including those of more than one race, was 39,7 million. They made up 13.4 percent of the total U.S. population. This figure represents an increase of half a million residents from one year earlier.

The projected single-race black population of the

United States as of July 1, 2050, is 61,4 million. On that date, according to the projection, blacks would constitute 15 percent of the nation's total population.

The number of states with an estimated black population on July 1, 2005, of at least 1 million is 18. New York, with 3.5 million blacks, led the way. The 17 other states on the list were: AL, CA, FL, GA, IL, LA, MD, MI, MS, NJ, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX and VA.

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SELECTED VIDEO TAPES

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122 Booker T. Washington: The Life and Legacy

32 minutes, produced in 1984

Award-winning docu-drama which traces the life of Booker T. Washington, ex-slave, author, educator, and social reformer. Through location filming, reenactments, period costumes, archival photographs, and interview segments, viewers follow his career as one of the most influential educational and political leaders of his time and the founder of Tuskegee Institute.

132 New Negro

30 minutes, produced in 1956

In this 1956 program, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Judge J. Waties Waring, former federal judge on the Southern Circuit, discuss the changes in the consciousness of African-Americans which led to the civil rights movement. The discussion also touches on the role of the federal judiciary, the goals and strategy of the civil rights movement, and the role of the "white liberals," particularly those in the South.

133 Assassin Years - Martin Luther King, Jr.

26 minutes, produced in 1978

Actor Kene Halliday plays the role of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in this documentary on his life and career in fighting segregation through passive resistance. Program includes scenes from the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, the Birmingham mass demonstrations and the March on Washington in 1963, the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, the signing of the Civil Rights Bill, and the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April 1968.

134 Legacy of a Dream

2 parts, 29 minutes, produced in 1975

This program, narrated by James Earl Jones, is a moving documentary on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s career as leader of the peaceful, non-

violent Civil Rights Movement, which changed the face of American society. Program includes excerpts from his speeches and live historical footage of protest marches and demonstrations, concluding with words by Coretta Scott King and Andrew Young about the present day status of the King legacy.

135-6 Malcolm X - Make It Plain

141:22 minutes, produced in 1994

The documentary is based on The Autobiography of Malcolm X, written by Malcolm X and Alex Haley. A charismatic and controversial figure even 28 years after his death, Malcolm X continues to be a symbol of black anger and alienation in America.

135-12 Midnight Ramble

56:24 minutes, produced in 1994

The subject of this video is the birth of black cinema. This program combines interviews and rich archival footage to tell not only the early history of black film but the social history of that day.

140 Road to Brown

48 minutes, produced in 1990

A story of segregation and the brilliant legal assault on it which launched the civil rights movement. The program is also a long overdue tribute to a visionary, Charles Hamilton Houston, "The Man Who Killed Jim Crow." This little known black lawyer was the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review, dean of Howard University Law School, and chief counsel to the NAACP. He launched a number of precedent-setting cases, which targeted segregated education as the key to understanding the entire Jim Crow system.

141 Uncommon Images: James Van Derzee

21:44 minutes, produced in 1976

A portrait of one of the first and foremost photographers of black American life (particularly the middle class), who set up shop in Harlem at the beginning of the century and spent the next sixty years taking pictures there. His work represents a fascinating record of the public and private life of the black community.

145-3 Color Adjustment

88 minutes, produced in 1984

The image of blacks on TV over the past 40 years is the subject of this spirited documentary.

147 March

34 minutes, produced in 1963

This black and white documentary offers an in-depth view of the march on Washington, August 28, 1963. It reflects the wide-ranging participation and the sense of responsibility for a peaceful demonstration shared by both blacks and whites. The program includes preliminaries in various cities, details of Washington activities, and climactic scenes at the Lincoln Memorial including excerpts of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech "I have a dream."

151 Frederick Douglass: When the Lion Wrote History

84:12 minutes, produced in 1994

Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Bailey in 1818, a slave. He died in 1895, in his own Washington, DC home, free, highly honored, yet ever angry. Actress Alfre Woodard arrates this profile of the black leader. Historic writings, commentary from modern-day historians, archival art and photography are used to recall his life.

152 Last Breeze of Summer

30:06 minutes, produced in 1991

It is 1957, the same year that Governor Orville Faubus defied the U.S. Government by refusing to admit black students to the high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. In this drama, set in a small town in Texas, a bright young girl named Lizzie Davis is chosen by the African-American

community, along with five other smart black teenagers, to be the first minority students in the previously all-white high school. After the violence occurs in Little Rock, all the students but Lizzie lose heart and return to the all-black high school.

158 Question of Color

57:20 minutes, produced in 1992

This documentary examines color consciousness within the African-American community, tracing how it has evolved from slavery to the present day. Filmmaker Kathe Sandler, who is biracial, traveled from New York City to Alabama and interviewed a wide cross-section of people. We experience the psychological and emotional turmoil that the issue engenders in a college president, a mayor, a TV anchorwoman, young rappers, and others - including the filmmaker herself. Evocative footage from the 1960's.

162 Series: Eyes on the Prize

6 parts, 60 minutes each, produced in 1986

This award-winning series examines the history and struggles of the American Civil Rights Movement.

165 Boycott

112 minutes, produced in 2001

Boycott is the story of Rosa Parks and the birth of the modern era Civil Rights movement 49 years ago. When mild-mannered seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, events were set in motion that would change history. After Rosa's arrest and while waiting for her appeal, the newly created Montgomery Improvement Association decides to start a boycott of the buses. To lead them, they elect 26-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr., a new minister and recent transplant to the community. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in the Supreme Court ruling on November 13, 1956 that bus segregation was unconstitutional.

179 Series: America Beyond the Color Line
4 parts, 60 minutes each, produced in 2004

One hundred years ago, the celebrated African-American intellectual W.E.B. DuBois, famously identified the problem of the 20th century as “the problem of the color line.” America has come a long way since DuBois made his prophecy, and the politics of race have undergone dramatic change. So – a century later – what are the new challenges faced by black Americans?

509 Color: A Sampling of Contemporary African-American Writers

57:45 minutes, produced in 1994

This program is written and narrated by novelist and poet Al Young. The writers reading their work in the video include Amiri Baraka, Lucille Clifton, Rita Dove, June Jordan, Etheridge Knight, Ishmail Reed, Sonia Sanchez, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, Lorenzo Thomas, Al Young and others.

520 Achievements in American Black History - Literature and Poetry

60 minutes, produced in 1980

Abbey Lincoln and Roscoe Brown read from the works of James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Nikki Giovanni, and Frederick Douglas.

530 Vision of the Spirit: A Portrait of Alice Walker

58:48 minutes, produced in 1989

This intimate portrait of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Alice Walker explores the roots of Walker's Southern black feminist consciousness through in-depth conversations with literary scholar Barbara Christian, who places Walker in the history of Afro-American literature.

536 Richard Wright: Black Boy

86:40 minutes, produced in 1994

This literary biography is the first in-depth documentary to explore the life, work, and legacy of Richard Wright. It skillfully intercuts dramatic excerpts from Wright's works such as *Native Son*

and *Black Boy* with historical footage and the recollections of friends, associates, and scholars such as Ralph Ellison and Margaret Walker. They track Wright's development as a writer and social critic, and explore the relationship between Wright's own life and the characters in his novels.

539-4 Slavery and Freedom

30 minutes, produced in 2003

How has slavery shaped the American literary imagination and American identity? This program turns to the classic slave narratives of Harriet Jacobs and Frederick Douglass, as well as the fiction of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

605-1 African American Artists: Affirmation Today

30 minutes, produced in 1997

African American artists Lois Mailou Jones, Sam Gilliam, Frederick Brown, and Keith Morrison discuss their early decisions to become artists. Examples of each artist's work is shown.

655 Kindred Spirits: Contemporary African-American Artists

27:45 minutes, produced in 1992

Famed poet, dramatist, and educator Maya Angelou introduces this documentary that celebrates in contemporary forms the cultural past of African-Americans. A group of painters and sculptors, including John Biggers, Charles Searles, Bessie Harvey and Jean Lacy, discuss their work. These artists are linked, not by their work, but by what they feel is their creative wellspring: their African heritage.

922 When the Spirit Moves

30 minutes, produced in 2001

The program explores African American dance in history and art. The video begins in Africa where dance was central to community life. Captive Africans brought dance to America where it nurtured them through slavery. The program also explores the Minutestrel and Vaudeville stages as well as Cakewalk, Tap, and Black Bottom.

“American Original” James Brown Inspired Many

U.S. State Department December 27, 2006

Americans awoke on Christmas morning to learn that one of their cultural icons was gone, and tributes have been flowing ever since. Pioneering musician James Brown was a notoriously strict bandleader, yet he had a generous heart. The inventor of funk music, he was one of the most energetic stage performers until his death at 73 on December 25.

President Bush praised Brown as an “American original,” who “enriched our culture and influenced generations of musicians.” Todd Harris, who served as Brown’s tour manager, said he represented “a piece of America” to his fans around the world. “[T]heir faces almost looked like they were coming to see Abraham Lincoln or something,” he recalled.

“My longevity comes from him. My ideas came from him, because I used to do every hip tune this man put out. ... He inspired me more than any other entertainer in the world,” said musician Chuck Brown, 72, the “Godfather of Go-Go,” who shared the stage several times with the “Godfather of Soul.”

“I can talk about this man for years. ... He was my greatest inspiration throughout my whole musical career and make sure you print that!” Chuck Brown told USINFO.

A DETAIL-ORIENTED BAND LEADER

Icon or not, James Brown was known as “the hardest working man in show business.” Lisa White, booking manager at Washington’s 9:30 Club, recalled “a very detail-oriented person” who, well after achieving international fame, continued to take an active role in his band. White remembered standing behind the club’s soundboard while the band was going through

its sound check for that night’s performance.

“A lot of people that achieve that stature in their career, they don’t bother to come to sound check ... but not James Brown,” she told USINFO. “He was like the conductor rehearsing everybody through their different parts and making them go over it ... until they got it right and calling people out for stuff that they weren’t doing or that they should have done.”

“[I]t just impressed me how much he still cared about making sure that the performance he was going to give the people who bought the tickets to the show was going to be the best it could be,” White said.

Brown, in his quest for excellence, was renowned for fining band members to punish poor performance. “One time ... one of the guys in his band did something wrong and he was like, ‘Ha! You’re paying me now!’ or something like that. It was funny,” White said.

Chuck Brown said he remembered seeing James Brown on stage when someone made a mistake. “He’d just raise his fingers. He’d raise two fingers. That means that’s what you got, a \$200 fine, you know? He was very strict.” But that band was “the tightest band in the world as far as I’m concerned.”



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